

# NOW I HAVE PEACE



# NOW WE CELEBRATE



MANY NON-CHRISTIANS TAKE A STEP TOWARDS JESUS DURING OUR INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAMPS AS THEY WITNESS COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP.

Sarah\* barely made it through her first two years of university. Far away from her home in China and under enormous cultural pressure and expectations, her grades started slipping and she began to have thoughts of suicide.

"While I was depressed, I lost interest in almost everything, even the things I used to love the most," she recalls. She found a lifeline in an international friendship club hosted by Inter-Varsity campus minister Max Rideout at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus.

As December approached, Sarah accepted Max's invitation to attend Christmas Camp. During the Christmas Eve service, the combination of music and words touched her deeply.

"While I was singing in the choir, I felt peace in my heart that I have not felt for a long time. I knew something was happening because at that moment I couldn't remember why I had felt depressed."

Sarah was intrigued by the sense of peace. Upon returning to campus, she started watching the TV miniseries The Bible. A self-proclaimed "unemotional person," Sarah was moved to tears by the stories of Jesus. She wanted to become one of his followers.

A few days later, she joined one of Max's investigative Bible studies for people who are not yet believers but are curious about Jesus.

When Sarah arrived at the study, Max could tell something had

CONTINUED ON BACK PANEL

## NOW I HAVE PEACE CONTINUED

changed for Sarah. She had become a believer, she said, and was finding strength and hope in the indiscriminate and powerful love of Jesus.

"Jesus," says Sarah, "provided me a way out and helped me stand up under the burden of my life."

\*Sarah's name has been changed.

To read more of Sarah's story, visit [www.ivcf.ca/annualreport](http://www.ivcf.ca/annualreport)

## A NOTE ABOUT FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Annual General Meeting of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's Board and Corporation will be held on February 4, 2016. At that time, the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 will be approved and made available.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**ADDRESS:** 1 International Boulevard  
Toronto, ON M9W 6H3  
**GENERAL INQUIRIES:** [info@ivcf.ca](mailto:info@ivcf.ca)  
**TORONTO AREA TELEPHONE:** 416.443.1170 ext. 125  
**TOLL-FREE:** 1.800.668.9766 ext. 125  
**FAX:** 416.443.1499



TRAINING AT OUR NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE IS LEADING TO MORE EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDIES.

INTER-VARSITY IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF:   **EFC** The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

## 2014-2015 MINISTRY REPORT STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES



GERI RODMAN (CENTRE) ATTENDS AN EVENT SHOWCASING THE ARTISTIC WORK OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN OUR SUMMER URBAN ARTS PARTNERSHIP.

## Dear Ministry Partners,


Young people are not lost to the call of Jesus today. We may think they are, given the statistics about declining church attendance and the increasing secularization of Canada. But as the stories in this Annual Ministry Report attest, young people are quite open to conversations about faith. They have questions they'd like to ask. They're looking for people who will not only listen but engage in conversation.

All of the statistics and stories we provide in this report are connected to living and breathing young people who are being transformed by Jesus. We meet them as we go joyfully to the front lines of youth culture — to their high schools, colleges and universities — and as they come to our camps.

As we celebrate our 86th year of ministry to youth, students and graduates in Canada we are grateful to God for many things. This summer a record number of children and teens attended our camps. More university students than ever invested a full week in our Gospel of Mark study camps. We provided significant training in evangelism for our whole staff team during our National Staff Conference in December.

Thank you for praying, giving and volunteering. Your commitment to our ministry is a great gift and we are grateful.

In partnership,

  
Geri Rodman, President

SEPT.

New Student Outreach began.

OCT.

Year-round programs were underway at our nine camps.

NOV.

Early registration opened for our summer camps.

DEC.

Inter-Varsity's National Staff Conference trained 202 staff in evangelism.

JAN.

Student Bible studies kept multiplying across the country.

FEB.

Registration began for our camp Leaders in Training Program (LIT).

MAR.

Early registration for Urbana 15 opened.

APRIL

Campus ministry wrapped up for the year.

MAY

MARK camps began, spanning several weeks.

JUNE

Global and Urban Partnerships began.

JULY

Summer camp was in session at our nine camps across Canada.

AUG.

Summer camp closed.

2014-2015

547 student leaders invited their friends into our high school, college and university campuses.

Between September and June, we served 21,394 people from church, school and youth groups.

This year, we celebrated a record number of 9,440 campers at Circle Square Ranches and Pioneer Camps.

Staff were equipped with 4,000 evangelistic Bible study guides to use in their neighbourhoods, on campus and at camp.

Throughout the year, 1,822 students participated in small group Bible studies.

This year, 191 high school students enrolled.

226 Canadians registered on the first day — a record! We are praying 2,500 Canadians will attend.

Praise God for the 3,035 core students in our high school, college and university ministries this past school year.

692 participants devoted a week to the Gospel of Mark in study camps across Canada.

93 students joined eight global, urban and camp mission teams in East Asia, Guatemala, Jamaica, England, Toronto, Montreal and Alberta.

1,471 volunteers helped with everything from teaching Scripture to washing dishes at our camps.

We praise God for 1,129 campers who made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus.



KATLYN (ABOVE LEFT) SERVED WITH 21 OTHER STUDENTS FROM ACROSS CANADA IN OUR URBAN ARTS PARTNERSHIP.

# NOW I HAVE COURAGE

If she could do it all over again today, Katlyn would talk more with the homeless man who sat near her on the train. But she held back, terrified he would follow her home. "I knew he just wanted to have

someone listen to him. But I was scared."

A lot has changed for Katlyn since that encounter. "Looking back at myself," says the Alberta College

of Art and Design student, "I'm quite surprised. God has really been working on my heart, helping me to be open to facing my fears, to push me to do things I never would have thought I could do."

Two years ago when Katlyn transferred from university in Edmonton to Calgary, she was on the fringe of belief, with many questions that could not be settled by her upbringing in a Christian home. Then, during her first week on campus, she connected with Inter-Varsity and joined a Bible study. "In the Bible study I saw things I had never seen before. I think I stayed because I felt heard. And then, once I started saying yes to God, I just kept saying yes."

This past summer, Katlyn joined 21 students and four Inter-Varsity staff for a month-long urban arts program. The group lived in community, created art and studied Scripture together. They also volunteered in homeless shelters and helped with after-school programs in poorer neighbourhoods.

"Starting out," recalls Katlyn, "I had preconceived notions, fear and judgment about marginalized people, avoiding them because they weren't my problem. That was my mindset."

"Things changed as we interacted with people. At a drop-in centre, I had a conversation with a street person, a normal conversation. We talked about life in cities, about our families...and I realized I could relate."

Back in Calgary, Katlyn has begun volunteering at a drop-in centre. When she meets street people, she stops to chat, offering to provide a meal or a cup of coffee.

She often thinks about the homeless man on the train. "It was a starting point for me, of God pressing me to see people differently. I think, today, I would spend more time with that man, to hear more of his story."

To read more of Katlyn's story, visit [www.ivcf.ca/annualreport](http://www.ivcf.ca/annualreport)



JONATHAN (FAR LEFT) MET HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS MINISTERS LEAH AND JARED MORTLEY AT ONTARIO PIONEER CAMP. NOW JARED IS HELPING JONATHAN START A CHRISTIAN CLUB IN HIS SCHOOL.

# NOW I HAVE JOY

"I was going into Grade 9 and I was an atheist," Jonathan says matter-of-factly. "I didn't even like the thought of religion. Thinking about people believing in God made me kind of angry."

It's surprising, then, that Jonathan would say yes when a friend invited him to spend two weeks at Ontario Pioneer Camp. But he did. And that's when everything began to change.

But first, Jonathan had to get through Grade 9. And that was when everything got harder.

"In Grade 9, I wanted attention, to be in the cool group," says Jonathan. "I made friends, but they never really turned out to be what I was looking for. There was non-stop teasing and making fun of others. I was making poor choices, getting into bad stuff and getting into fights at home. My parents were losing faith in me."

When summer came, Jonathan was eager to return to camp. His experience the previous summer had softened his opinion of Christianity, but he still felt it was not for him. By the end of camp, he realized he'd shifted. "All the prayer, caring for people, being cared for, reading about Jesus' teaching – that's what helped me believe."

At camp, Jonathan met Jared Mortley, who works with Inter-Varsity's High School Ministry in Toronto. Jared connected Jonathan with other Christians in his school

where, gradually, they've established a Christian club.

"Our purpose is to be a loving community that shows people what Jesus is like," says Jonathan. "We want to do things we can invite our friends to, so they can ask questions: Who is Jesus? Why is there suffering? Where do morals come from?"

"But we have fun, too," he adds. "We're not a lame group!"

This summer, Jonathan was back at camp for a month-long Leaders in Training program, where he learned about leadership, but also about selflessness.

"I went to camp not knowing I was going to come out a Christian," he says. "Now I am in this community of friends who love me no matter who I am, no matter what I've done. Now I have joy."

To read more of Jonathan's story, visit [www.ivcf.ca/annualreport](http://www.ivcf.ca/annualreport)